

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPACE SCIENCE BOARD

June 10, 1960

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

Dear Joshua:

I am sorry that it was not possible for you to be present at the last meeting of the Board since I believe the discussion was both informative and productive. You and Keffer Hartline, together with your colleagues, did a fine planning job, so necessary for the Board to meet its obligations in the biological aspects of space research. As you probably know, the Board endorsed these plans and I personally am most anxious to see the sub-committees organized as soon as possible. In addition, as you will see from the enclosed copy of my letter to President Bronk, it is necessary for the Board to become familiar with the man-in-space problem. I propose, therefore, to activate a small, competent committee with suitable liaison members from the military and civilian agencies primarily concerned, for this purpose. As I now see this committee, it would not be a part of the Committee on Biological Research.

As you know, for some time Keffer Hartline has been anxious to become less active in Committee matters. He has agreed, however, to remain on the Board for at least another year. The purpose of this letter is formally to request you to continue to serve as Chairman of Sub-Committee 11a on Exobiology and to assume additional responsibilities as Chairman of Committee 11 on Biological Research. It is most important that the Board be in a position to provide the new Office of Life Sciences at NASA with scientific advice of the highest order. The Space Science Board has a responsibility not only to the Academy and to the scientific community but to the nation to insure that the biological program now being developed at NASA is sound and scientifically competent. I feel personally that this is our responsibility.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg

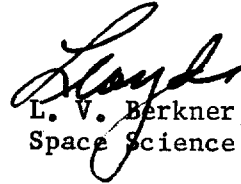
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I hope that it will be possible for you to accept this additional assignment and look forward to discussing these plans with you at the next Board meeting, June 24-27.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. V. Berkner', written in a cursive style.

L. V. Berkner, Chairman
Space Science Board

cc: H. K. Hartline
H. Odishaw
R. C. Peavey